



SENATE FISCAL OFFICE
ISSUE BRIEF

Education Aid: March Data Update

MAY 11, 2021

The Education Adequacy Act, enacted in 2010, provided a new school funding formula that creates a single methodology for distributing state aid to all public schools. The core principle behind the formula is that state funding should follow the student; therefore, the distribution of state funds changes annually based on shifts in enrollment. This formula applies to all public schools, charter schools, the Davies Career and Technical School, and the Metropolitan Career and Technical Center.

The formula requires that the enrollment used to calculate aid be from the prior school year, and practice has been to use the March enrollment numbers, such that FY2022 education aid would be based on March 2021 enrollment data. Since the Governor's Budget is generally due at the end of January, the most recent enrollment data is not available for the recommendation; consequently, the Governor's Budget is based on the March data from the prior year. The General Assembly uses the most recent March enrollment numbers to revise the Governor's proposal and includes the update in the enacted budget. For FY2022, the Governor's education aid recommendation is based on the March 2020 enrollment data, with enrollment projections for existing charter schools.

Generally, the March update provides an increase in state aid and is implemented as common practice; however, due to the impact of COVID-19, FY2022 is different. The March 2021 data update would reduce the formula aid to districts in the Governor's recommendation by \$39.9 million.

The change is driven by reductions in enrollment. Statewide enrollment in public schools decreases by 3,995 students, or -2.8 percent; however, a charter school enrollment increase of 513 leaves an enrollment decrease of 4,533, a -3.5 percent, in traditional districts. According to RIDE, the enrollment decrease is particularly heavy in grades K and 1. The largest percentage decrease is in Foster with 10.1 percent, followed by Little Compton at 9.3 percent, and Westerly at 6.1 percent.

It is unclear where the students went. According to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), home school students increased by about 1,500. Nonpublic schools are not showing an increase, but enrollment reporting is voluntary so that data may be incomplete. This will change in FY2022 when nonpublic schools will have to submit enrollment data to be certified by RIDE.

The data also shows a significant decrease in free and reduced lunch plan (FRLP) students. According to the Department, the FRLP numbers do not reflect actual poverty rates since, during the pandemic, meals have been distributed to all students eliminating the need to register to receive food.

The Department has expressed support for the Governor's initial recommended budget and the hold harmless provisions currently before the General Assembly; however, the Department does not support reducing the aid.

The table on the following page shows the by-district change in formula aid relative to the FY2021 Budget as Enacted, and the March 2021 data update relative to the Governor's Budget.

March 2021 Data Update

Districts	FY2021 Enacted	FY2022 Governor	Change in State Funding from Enacted	FY2022 Data		Change in State Funding from Update to Governor
	(excludes group home and categoricals)	State Share of Foundation Budget		Update State Share of Foundation Budget	Change in State Funding from Enacted	
	B	C		F	F-B	
Barrington	\$5,871,029	\$7,924,118	\$2,053,089	\$7,829,686	\$1,958,657	(\$94,432)
Burrillville	14,142,025	13,767,429	(374,596)	12,655,787	(1,486,238)	(1,111,642)
Charlestown	1,310,336	1,291,300	(19,036)	1,242,056	(68,280)	(49,244)
Coventry	23,412,703	24,066,104	653,401	22,573,318	(839,385)	(1,492,786)
Cranston	68,450,816	68,487,125	36,310	65,541,355	(2,909,460)	(2,945,770)
Cumberland	20,695,039	20,422,979	(272,060)	19,738,125	(956,914)	(684,854)
East Greenwich	3,289,856	4,305,850	1,015,994	4,222,380	932,524	(83,469)
East Providence	35,396,348	36,103,488	707,140	34,313,084	(1,083,265)	(1,790,404)
Foster	1,030,628	1,057,919	27,291	948,190	(82,438)	(109,729)
Glocester	2,121,901	2,422,153	300,252	2,318,144	196,243	(104,009)
Hopkinton	5,488,552	5,590,417	101,864	5,336,183	(152,369)	(254,234)
Jamestown	370,888	291,969	(78,920)	285,862	(85,026)	(6,106)
Johnston	18,685,883	19,503,143	817,261	18,151,018	(534,865)	(1,352,126)
Lincoln	14,948,129	15,857,037	908,909	15,763,504	815,376	(93,533)
Little Compton	397,611	432,020	34,408	388,770	(8,841)	(43,249)
Middletown	7,845,644	8,132,606	286,962	7,611,345	(234,300)	(521,261)
Narragansett	2,206,524	2,178,394	(28,130)	1,976,822	(229,703)	(201,573)
Newport	13,794,759	14,752,903	958,145	13,334,058	(460,701)	(1,418,845)
New Shoreham	177,909	191,118	13,209	208,589	30,680	17,471
North Kingstown	11,791,198	11,216,037	(575,161)	10,696,659	(1,094,539)	(519,379)
North Providence	24,700,268	26,695,771	1,995,502	25,917,044	1,216,776	(778,727)
North Smithfield	6,028,551	6,167,096	138,545	5,839,572	(188,980)	(327,524)
Pawtucket	91,967,189	94,603,861	2,636,671	92,331,270	364,081	(2,272,590)
Portsmouth	3,219,595	3,062,524	(157,071)	2,866,109	(353,487)	(196,415)
Providence	268,225,023	278,280,132	10,055,109	260,711,401	(7,513,622)	(17,568,731)
Richmond	4,693,797	5,149,642	455,845	5,003,341	309,544	(146,302)
Scituate	2,647,517	2,358,211	(289,305)	2,257,688	(389,829)	(100,523)
Smithfield	5,776,314	6,817,709	1,041,395	6,663,228	886,914	(154,481)
South Kingstown	4,463,290	4,559,972	96,681	4,301,287	(162,003)	(258,685)
Tiverton	7,380,299	6,774,565	(605,734)	6,220,129	(1,160,170)	(554,437)
Warwick	37,747,785	39,221,133	1,473,347	37,166,439	(581,346)	(2,054,693)
Westerly	8,114,881	7,937,325	(177,556)	7,311,341	(803,540)	(625,984)
West Warwick	29,438,359	30,857,785	1,419,425	30,081,444	643,085	(776,341)
Woonsocket	68,596,553	69,988,442	1,391,889	67,465,683	(1,130,870)	(2,522,759)
Bristol-Warren	12,630,626	11,345,723	(1,284,903)	10,407,266	(2,223,360)	(938,457)
Bristol	5,365,823	4,852,340	(513,483)	4,599,752	(766,071)	(252,588)
Warren	7,264,802	6,493,383	(771,419)	5,807,514	(1,457,289)	(685,869)
Exeter-West Greenwich	4,226,297	4,242,989	16,692	3,986,299	(239,998)	(256,690)
Exeter	1,873,136	1,898,454	25,318	1,818,138	(54,998)	(80,316)
West Greenwich	2,353,161	2,344,535	(8,626)	2,168,160	(185,000)	(176,374)
Chariho	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foster-Glocester	4,636,715	5,104,253	467,538	4,937,240	300,525	(167,014)
Foster	1,639,375	1,682,786	43,411	1,592,322	(47,053)	(90,463)
Glocester	2,997,340	3,421,468	424,128	3,344,917	347,577	(76,550)
Central Falls	38,101,208	39,210,800	1,109,592	37,240,010	(861,198)	(1,970,790)
District Total	\$874,022,047	\$900,372,044	\$26,349,997	\$855,841,725	(\$18,180,322)	(\$44,530,318)
Charter School Total	108,849,009	118,384,614	9,535,605	123,331,099	14,482,090	4,946,485
Davies	8,764,580	9,091,903	327,322	8,589,670	(174,910)	(502,232)
Met School	7,695,945	8,016,071	320,126	8,259,898	563,953	243,827
Urban Collaborative	1,555,465	1,630,145	74,680	1,526,770	(28,695)	(103,375)
Total	\$1,000,887,046	\$1,037,494,776	\$36,607,730	\$997,549,162	(\$3,337,884)	(\$39,945,614)

The following table shows the changes in student demographics in the March 2021 data update relative to the Governor's Budget.

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March 2021 Data Update versus Governor's Budget

LEA	PK-12 RADM				FRLP				Percentage of RADM that is FRLP		
	Governor's	March 2021	Difference	Percent Change	Governor's	March 2021	Difference	Percent Change	Governor's	March	Difference
	Submission	Data Update			Submission	Data Update			Submission	2021 Data Update	
	F	G	G-F=H	H/F	K	L	L-K=M	M/K	K/F=P	L/G=Q	Q-P
Barrington	3,416	3,383	(33)	-1.0%	145	124	(21)	-14.5%	4.2%	3.7%	-0.6%
Burrillville	2,224	2,100	(124)	-5.6%	781	579	(202)	-25.9%	35.1%	27.6%	-7.5%
Charlestown	740	721	(19)	-2.6%	156	127	(29)	-18.6%	21.1%	17.6%	-3.5%
Coventry	4,502	4,352	(150)	-3.3%	1,207	809	(398)	-33.0%	26.8%	18.6%	-8.2%
Cranston	10,168	10,065	(103)	-1.0%	4,095	3,083	(1,012)	-24.7%	40.3%	30.6%	-9.6%
Cumberland	4,597	4,525	(72)	-1.6%	913	677	(236)	-25.8%	19.9%	15.0%	-4.9%
East Greenwich	2,572	2,534	(38)	-1.5%	173	140	(33)	-19.1%	6.7%	5.5%	-1.2%
East Providence	5,036	4,863	(173)	-3.4%	2,443	2,130	(313)	-12.8%	48.5%	43.8%	-4.7%
Foster	227	204	(23)	-10.1%	64	56	(8)	-12.5%	28.2%	27.5%	-0.7%
Glocester	553	532	(21)	-3.8%	73	63	(10)	-13.7%	13.2%	11.8%	-1.4%
Hopkinton	1,137	1,101	(36)	-3.2%	236	186	(50)	-21.2%	20.8%	16.9%	-3.9%
Jamestown	655	643	(12)	-1.8%	36	31	(5)	-13.9%	5.5%	4.8%	-0.7%
Johnston	3,288	3,208	(80)	-2.4%	1,372	907	(465)	-33.9%	41.7%	28.3%	-13.5%
Lincoln	3,162	3,179	17	0.5%	826	732	(94)	-11.4%	26.1%	23.0%	-3.1%
Little Compton	344	312	(32)	-9.3%	49	38	(11)	-22.4%	14.2%	12.2%	-2.1%
Middletown	2,175	2,045	(130)	-6.0%	694	626	(68)	-9.8%	31.9%	30.6%	-1.3%
Narragansett	1,211	1,128	(83)	-6.9%	220	127	(93)	-42.3%	18.2%	11.3%	-6.9%
Newport	2,088	1,933	(155)	-7.4%	1,471	1,215	(256)	-17.4%	70.5%	62.9%	-7.6%
New Shoreham	134	148	14	10.4%	26	24	(2)	-7.7%	19.4%	16.2%	-3.2%
North Kingstown	3,747	3,654	(93)	-2.5%	793	555	(238)	-30.0%	21.2%	15.2%	-6.0%
North Providence	3,547	3,478	(69)	-1.9%	1,674	1,539	(135)	-8.1%	47.2%	44.2%	-2.9%
North Smithfield	1,643	1,614	(29)	-1.8%	308	146	(162)	-52.6%	18.7%	9.0%	-9.7%
Pawtucket	8,595	8,339	(256)	-3.0%	6,112	6,089	(23)	-0.4%	71.1%	73.0%	1.9%
Portsmouth	2,295	2,197	(98)	-4.3%	359	213	(146)	-40.7%	15.6%	9.7%	-5.9%
Providence	22,458	21,169	(1,289)	-5.7%	19,259	17,721	(1,538)	-8.0%	85.8%	83.7%	-2.0%
Richmond	1,135	1,112	(23)	-2.0%	172	144	(28)	-16.3%	15.2%	12.9%	-2.2%
Scituate	1,269	1,228	(41)	-3.2%	147	108	(39)	-26.5%	11.6%	8.8%	-2.8%
Smithfield	2,378	2,366	(12)	-0.5%	366	253	(113)	-30.9%	15.4%	10.7%	-4.7%
South Kingstown	2,918	2,792	(126)	-4.3%	514	386	(128)	-24.9%	17.6%	13.8%	-3.8%
Tiverton	1,758	1,666	(92)	-5.2%	407	244	(163)	-40.0%	23.2%	14.6%	-8.5%
Warwick	8,616	8,226	(390)	-4.5%	2,817	2,516	(301)	-10.7%	32.7%	30.6%	-2.1%
Westerly	2,683	2,519	(164)	-6.1%	875	687	(188)	-21.5%	32.6%	27.3%	-5.3%
West Warwick	3,607	3,528	(79)	-2.2%	1,933	1,855	(78)	-4.0%	53.6%	52.6%	-1.0%
Woonsocket	5,888	5,690	(198)	-3.4%	4,589	4,388	(201)	-4.4%	77.9%	77.1%	-0.8%
Bristol-Warren	3,163	3,061	(102)	-3.2%	940	544	(396)	-42.1%	29.7%	17.8%	-11.9%
Bristol	1,923	1,900	(23)	-1.2%	485	267	(218)	-44.9%	25.2%	14.1%	-11.2%
Warren	1,240	1,161	(79)	-6.4%	455	277	(178)	-39.1%	36.7%	23.9%	-12.8%
Exeter-West Greenwich	1,643	1,571	(72)	-4.4%	273	190	(83)	-30.4%	16.6%	12.1%	-4.5%
Exeter	752	731	(21)	-2.8%	141	108	(33)	-23.4%	18.8%	14.8%	-4.0%
West Greenwich	891	840	(51)	-5.7%	132	82	(50)	-37.9%	14.8%	9.8%	-5.1%
Chariho	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foster-Glocester	1,149	1,135	(14)	-1.2%	188	123	(65)	-34.6%	16.4%	10.8%	-5.5%
Foster	375	363	(12)	-3.2%	67	43	(24)	-35.8%	17.9%	11.8%	-6.0%
Glocester	774	772	(2)	-0.3%	121	80	(41)	-33.9%	15.6%	10.4%	-5.3%
Central Falls	2,781	2,648	(133)	-4.8%	2,707	2,554	(153)	-5.7%	97.3%	96.5%	-0.9%
Subtotal District Aid	129,502	124,969	(4,533)	-3.5%	59,413	51,929	(7,484)	-12.6%	45.9%	41.6%	-4.3%
Charter School Total	11,061	11,574	513	4.6%	7,701	7,645	(56)	-0.7%	69.6%	66.1%	-3.6%
Davies*	885	893	8	0.9%	544	386	(158)	-29.0%	61.5%	43.2%	-18.2%
Met School†	780	811	31	4.0%	603	576	(27)	-4.5%	77.3%	71.0%	-6.3%
Urban Collaborative	133	119	(14)	-10.5%	112	118	6	5.4%	84.2%	99.2%	14.9%
Total	142,361	138,366	(3,995)	-2.8%	68,373	60,654	(7,719)	-11.3%	48.0%	43.8%	-4.2%